



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **School Committee Minutes 09/22/2011**

*Approved by Arlington School Committee 10/27/2011*

**Arlington School Committee**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2011**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Arlington High School**  
**School Committee Room – Sixth Floor**  
**869 Massachusetts Avenue**  
**Arlington, MA 02476**

**Present:** Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curro, Jr., Ms. Leba Heigham, and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant and Student Representative Sally Chung.

**Absent** Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Steve Pereira, AAA Representative

### Public Participation

Mr. Joe Geierman, Stratton 5th grade parent, spoke on his concerns that the motion made on September 8, 2011 to have Dr. Bodie reexamine the 5th grade classroom numbers and to meet with parents to recommend mitigation and to cap enrollment did not happen and would like to have the discussion as the motion states.

### Approval of Spring 2012 AHS Trip to Quebec

Ms. Catherine Ritz, World Language Director presented a trip proposal to Quebec City for French high school students from March 8 – March 12, 2012.

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Spring 2012 AHS Trip to Quebec, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

### Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT)

Dr. Bodie along with the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee (SDAC) is asking the School Committee to support and endorse the "Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers" (TSTT) career development mentoring program.

The program recruits and trains high school students for college and teaching careers. The SDAC has attempted to seek support from the Arlington community, but do not have any commitments and are requesting the School Committee to provide \$15,000 for five students for this academic year.

**Mr. Pierce moved to ask~our~Chief Financial Officer to research~grants, amend grant applications, and to~review where in our Operating Budget for 2011-2012, the \$15,000 would come from to support (TSTT) and report back to the full committee at our next School Committee meeting, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

#### Coordinated Program Review and Corrective Action Plan

Ms. Kathleen Lockyer and Ms. Lori Villani presented the DESE Special Education Coordinated Program Review findings. The Coordinated Program Reviews are routine to every district in Massachusetts and happen every six years. Ms. Lockyer and Ms. Villani summarized the findings of the report and said that Arlington Public Schools will have one calendar year to be in compliance in all criteria's. Ms. Lockyer said the department is looking at issues, and said long range; systemic changes will take place as will ongoing internal monitoring procedures, root cause analysis and oversight or tracking systems in Special Education.

#### Coordinated Program Review and special education

Ms. Orlovsky presented SEPAC's input to the Corrective Action Plan and would like SEPAC to continue to provide input and to continue to meet with administration. Ms. Orlovsky has suggested more outside expertise training for staff and parents on Special Education issues.

#### District Goals 2011-2012 Update

Dr. Bodie presented the draft District Goals for 2011-2012 to the full School Committee. Dr. Bodie reviewed Goal 1, and Goal 2 and 3 will be heard at the next District Accountability/Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Subcommittee meeting. All committee members may review the draft District Goals and send Superintendent Bodie any comments.

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie addressed the comments and emails made from the 5th grade Stratton School parents relating to classroom size for the 5th grade students. Dr. Bodie said because she had just met with the parents, the numbers had not changed and class size has not exceeded 30 she did not need to reexamine the issue.

Dr. Bodie is aware of the Enrollment chart dated September 22, 2011, which shows classroom sizes are growing and space and school budgets will need to be reviewed over the next few years to accommodate the students. Dr. Bodie did say that Redistricting after the Thompson School opens will make a difference and suggested the possibility of expanding the Stratton School.

Dr. Bodie mentioned that the Thompson School had made AYP in all areas and said the success of this comes from the support of the Reading Program and the dedicated staff. The District will again hold a Flu Clinic for students this fall, and more information will be coming.

#### Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

##### *Policies & Procedures*

Suspension of Policy JCA from 09/08/2011

Mr. Pierce would like to continue the suspension of Policy JCA and recommends the following motion:

**Mr. Pierce moved to approve the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee recommendation that the School Committee suspends Policy JCA for the specific purpose of granting a waiver for the Taylor family to enter Kindergarten at the Hardy School, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Mr. Pierce would like to suspend Policy BEDB Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination due to the policy reading "Friday" preceding the School Committee meeting to read "Monday".

**Ms. Heigham moved the Suspension of Policy BEDB until it can be amended, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 6-0**

*Second Reading on:*

*KF – Community Use of School Facilities*

**Mr. Pierce moved to approve second reading of KF – Community Use of School Facilities, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Voted: 6-0**

*KF-E Fee Structure for Rental of School Building Space*

**Mr. Pierce moved to approve second reading of KF-E Fee Structure for Rental of School Building Space, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 6-0**

*IMG- Animals in Schools*

**Mr. Pierce moved to approve and adopt the second reading of IMG- Animals in Schools, seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 6-0**

*JFABC – Admission of Transfer Students*

**Mr. Pierce moved to approve and adopt the second reading of JFABC – Admission of Transfer Students, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 6-0**

*First Reading of*

- *BEDB – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination*
- *FA, FB, FBB – Facilities Planning Enrollment Projections*
- *JC - Attendance Areas*
- *JCA – Open Enrollment*

*Mr. Pierce encourages public comment on JCA – Open Enrollment at the next Policies and Procedures Subcommittee meeting, in October.*

*Chair - BOS/SC mtg*

Ms. Starks said the Board of Selectmen would like to hold a joint meeting with the School Committee Board members and the Community Relations Subcommittee will arrange this meeting with BOS member Dan Dunn. Ms. Starks said the Finance Committee will hold an open meeting with the School Committee, Superintendent and the CFO on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:30 in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall.

**Ms. Heigham moved the 10 o'clock rule to 10:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 5-0-1, Mr. Curro abstained.**

Consent Agenda

**Mr. Curro moved to approve consent agenda as follows: Approval of Warrant**

**# 12026 dated August 23, 2011 in the amount of \$414,254.29, Approval of Warrant # 12034 dated September 8, 2011 in the amount of \$274,475.76, Approval of School Committee Minutes: May 10, 2011, and June 14, 2011, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Curro moved to approve the School Committee minutes of June 28, 2011, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 5-0-1, Mr. Thielman abstained**

Secretary's Report

*Mr. Pierce reported on correspondence from 9/8/11-9/22/11.*

Emails from Stratton Parents Concerning 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Size.

Emails from Superintendent concerning elementary class sizes.

Emails regarding request for public records.

Email regarding Bishop School Kindergarten class size.

School Committee draft minutes from May 10, 2011, June 14, 2011 and June 28, 2011.

Email with Corrective Action Plan from 2005.

Email from Mr. Thielman regarding a Study of middle class school districts.

Emails from Ms. Fitzgerald and School Committee members concerning Consolidation of Town/School Human Resource Department.

Email with posting and agenda for AFSCME Local 680 Traffic Supervisors meeting on September 21, 2011.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald with School Calendar update.

Email from Superintendent regarding Thompson School parent meeting on September 21, 2011.

Email with posting and agenda for the Arlington School Committee

Negotiations Committee Subcommittee for AEA Unit A, AEA Unit C , and AAA on September 20, 2011.

Email from Superintendent regarding EDCO Forum on October 3, 2011.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding State Ethics Law.

Email from Interim Special Education Director Kathleen Lockyer regarding a preface to the Special Education Presentation on 9/22/11.

Email regarding SEPAC presentation for 9/22/11.

Email with posting and agenda for 9/22/11 School Committee meeting.

Email from Superintendent regarding Stratton's designation once again as a Commended School.

Email from Mr. Spiegel with the PEC agreement regarding GIC.~

Email from Superintendent with Revised District Goals.

Letter from Stephen Finnegan, General Counsel for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees regarding Consolidation of School Department Human Resources and Finance Departments with the Town of Arlington dated June 13, 2011.

Letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding Project Funding Agreement for the Green Repair Project at the Stratton Elementary School dated September 6, 2011.

Letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding the fully executed Project Funding Agreement for the Thompson Elementary School Project dated September 13, 2011.

Notice and Agenda of Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday November 2, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Email from Mr. Hayner regarding Charter School Proposal for the Somerville area.

Statement from Dorsey Yearley, Executive Director of EDCO regarding the Collaborative.

Executive Session

***Mr. Curro moved to enter Executive Session at 10:01 p.m to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect.***

- ***Negotiation Updates & Votes on Contracts AEA (Unit A & C), AAA, AFSME***
- ***Administrative Contract Updates and to To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted, and to return to open session, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Roll Call: Unanimous***

***Return to open session at 10:14 p.m.***

***Mr. Hayner moved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association –Unit A dated September 20, 2011 be accepted as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Chairperson of the Arlington School Committee be directed to sign the contract between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association – Unit A when this MOA is incorporated into it with updated pay schedules, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association – Unit C dated September 29, 2011 be accepted as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Chairperson of the Arlington School Committee be directed to sign the contract between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association – Unit C when this MOA is incorporated into it with updated pay schedules, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Administrators Association dated September 20, 2011 be accepted as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Chairperson of the Arlington School Committee be directed to sign the contract between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Administrators Association when this MOA is incorporated into it with updated pay schedules, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Arlington School Committee and AFSCME, Council 93, Local 680 – Traffic Supervisors dated September 21, 2011 be accepted as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-0***

***Mr. Hayner moved that the Chairperson of the Arlington School Committee be directed to sign the contract between the Arlington School Committee and the AFSCME, Council 93, Local 680 – Traffic Supervisors when***

***this MOA is incorporated into it with updated pay schedules, seconded by Ms. Heigham***

***Voted: 6-0***

*Adjourn*

*Mr. Curro moved to adjourn at 10:18 p.m. seconded by Mr. Hayner.*

*Voted: 6-0*

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Karen M. Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee/jp*